

MEETING OF THE ROUND VALLEY AREA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RVAMAC)

Wednesday, February 07, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Library Commons 23925 Howard Street, Covelo, CA

Mailing Address: PO Box 372, Covelo, CA 95428 <https://mac.roundvalley.org/>

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:17pm. Roll call: Kathy Britton, Kay Richards, Marylou Mileck and Laura Betts present. Dane Downing, Charles Sargent, James Russ and Michelle Downey not present.,
2. Approval of Agenda: Kay moved to approve; agenda approved without objection.
3. Approval of January 03, 2024 meeting minutes: Kay moved to approve; January 3, 2024 approved without modification or objections.
4. Public Comment & Announcements on non-agenda items.
 - a. Availability of grant funding for Seismic Retrofit_Seismic retrofit grant funding is available to eligible zip codes in Mendocino County! Registration for the “Earthquake Brace + Bolt Program” is open until February 21, 2024. _The Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) Program, jointly administered by the California Earthquake Authority and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, offers eligible homeowners grants for up to\$3,000. The grants help offset the cost of seismic retrofits that brace the cripple walls of older homes, when present, and bolt houses to their foundations, making them less vulnerable to earthquake damage. (Covelo 95428 is included)
 - b. Mendocino Fire Safe Council Public meeting at the Library Commons on February 8, 2024, 5:00-6:30 p.m. “Prepare for Wildfire”.
 - c. Mendocino County Permitting Process Inland Community Stakeholders Meeting: The Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health and Planning and Building Services are excited to invite all stakeholders to meet on February 13, 2024. The Departments value your input and collaboration, and this meeting will focus on discussing and improving the permitting process in our departments. Agenda Highlights:
 - Overview of the current permitting process
 - Discussion of recent updates and proposed changes
 - Opportunities for community feedback and suggestions
 - Collaborative brainstorming for a more efficient and accessible process
 - d.. March 2-3 Volunteer Fire Department Flea Market
 - e. Seed and scion swap this weekend at the Library.
5. County and Tribal officials & Public Comment:
 - a. Tribal Council update: none.
 - b. Sheriff Kendall: MCSO dealing with trees coming down more than the flooding; work should be done in 3-5 days; deputy recruitment looking good; MCSO is getting a lot of animal control calls, mostly from Laytonville, Covelo and Fort Bragg. Calls for service dropped off when the weather changed. Call Rich Molinari if you want to discuss animal control issues in the county.
 - c. Supervisor Haschak: not present due to other obligations.
 - d. Mendocino County DOT: none.
 - e. Julia Peterson, CalTrans Project Director: CalTrans Traffic Mitigation and Beautification Project almost finished. There are other potential projects for Covelo’s streets under HM4 Safety Program; see the CalTrans press release 2023-045. There will be changes to 162 changes next week, weather permitting. There will be 3 fewer and all wider speed humps. The HM4 program includes

anything on state highway. Local needs are; ADA sidewalks; need community engagement on new changes; perhaps ask for raised sidewalks instead of humps? Make them movable? Add a median barrier? Expanding it? She could not plant trees because needed right of ways, need arborists, and a plan to maintain. CleanCA sunsets in June – a one time fund. We could do work under a maintenance program, possibly. Ask for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons which can be installed if the community asks for it. CalTrans won't install lights unless it is a safety issue;. PG&E will install street lights if we pay the bill; there is a county lighting district that pays the electric bill for our street lights. Julia suggests that we ask John Haschak to expand the county lighting district for more lights in town. Julia suggests we ask Scott Ellsmore for road work on Howard, Main and other feeders to 162 which should qualify for federal aid (80-100%). Nepehele Barrett also can connect to grant opportunities.

Old Business:

6. Discussion/update and possible action: Continuing discussion on the possibility of the county creating a safe housing area for deputy sheriff and other essential county employees and health care workers on the Forestry Service property located at the Covelo Ranger Station. Whether to request the county to look at the Department of Agriculture – Rural Development - Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities) for possible funding. Sheriff Kendall previously reported that there are several houses that could be possibly utilized. He is looking for an agreement with the Forest Service. Kathy moves to table this to March meeting and no objections were made.

7. Discussion and possible action: Approve a maximum of \$250 for technical consultation for RVAMAC website, email, and possible other technical media platforms in order to assure ongoing MAC access and control (Imil Ferrera consultant). This item was tabled at the January 3, 2024, meeting for additional information from Charles Sargenti. Lew reports today that the FRVL applied for grant for audio0visual equipment upgrade so this might be involved for resolution. Kathy moves to remove from agenda and no objections were made.

8. Discussion and possible action: “Transportation planning and data collection”? DOT was supposed to coordinate with County DOT to make sure they had enough notice to get traffic data on Main St. prior to the 162-downtown project. At the last steering committee meeting it was clear that they had not yet made sure to coordinate with DOT and that the CalTrans project would leave a couple week time frame between stopping construction and installing speed bumps where there would be a return to “normal” traffic on Main St. Unfortunately, they seem to have only had this window of time between the construction barrier removal and the installation of the speed humps for a couple weeks including during the Thanksgiving week. Did DOT receive enough notice and were given enough time to plan accordingly. This item was tabled at the January 3, 2024, meeting due to Jessica Stull-Otto being absent. Kathy moves to table this to March meeting and no objections were made.

9. Discussion and possible action: The parking in front of the library was recently repaved and the lines have not yet been re-stripped. Discussion at the Friends of the Library meeting was to make the parking situation safer for pedestrians who have to walk behind big trucks in the oncoming traffic lane to walk north to reach the library. Additionally, there has been a 2nd crash into the garbage can in front of the library, next to the book drop box, from people pulling in too fast or something. Discussion about changing the parking in that section or having DOT work with the owner of the next parcel to the south to make a safer walking area. This is especially important since the speed humps may result in more people driving south on Main to avoid the 162 speed humps when driving south from Howard by the library. This item was tabled at the January 3, 2024, meeting due to Jessica Stull-Otto being absent. Kathy moves to table this to March meeting and no objections were made.

New Business:

10. Discussion and possible action: Request to Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County DOT, to correct street signage in the Round Valley area. List of the identified problems provided by Lew Chichester.. Proposed letter submitted. Kay receives wording changes during the meeting. Kay moves to approve letter with changes which was approved without objections.

11. Discussion and possible action: Ongoing problems in the community with uncontained dogs, dogs that have been abandoned (dumped), dogs killing other dogs and creating a nuisance and potential safety issue. (John Haschak did speak with Rich Molinari at Animal Control about this concern.) Rich Molinari said hiring another officer but the county can't take more animals. County policy, if it exists and is being enforced, is questionable. Lourance says animals are not being evaluated for adoptability to determine which animals should be put down. Lew suggests we ask Rich Molinari to come to the next meeting; Kay will do so. Pat suggests a week long spay and neuter clinic. Barbara Thrasher reported the Army might come back in August. The Health Center arranged that so Kathy will follow up on that. Lourance reports that people from out of the Round Valley area people were signing up for services so there was no screening for locals only. Patricia Mera indicates more education needed. Lourance Hall asks why is the Carevan not coming up more often. Rich Molinari will be invited to the March MAC meeting. No action taken.

12. Discussion and possible action: Installation and maintenance of sidewalks and other safety improvements in Covelo by the HM4 Safety Program on the South side of Howard Street from the Library to Foothill Boulevard (schools). Proposed letter to Andreas Krause submitted. Kay receives several additional requests during the meeting. Kay moves to approve letter with amendments discussed and additional requests. The letter with amendments is approved without objection.

13. Discussion and possible action: Powerpoint presentation from Lourance Hall and Pat Higgins on the Eel River Recovery Project:

- Town Creek Site Bioengineering Project and School Involvement : this is a restoration project including school children. Creek banks have expanded so this project intends to restore the banks with baffles, etc. which will create riparian areas. They have planted cottonwoods and willows in Jimmy Duran's pasture. If successful, they can go anywhere on the valley floor. The ERRP is teaching restoration and tree promulgation, how to stop sediment collection, erosion, etc. The ERRP looking for a CalTrans grant to study the results of the project, then another to implement sites across the valley floor jointly with RVIT and RVCWD. Is this a possible CTE program? Lourance said they are working with Amanda and Amber on the CTE pathway. Lourance gives update on ERRP activities and is here to do outreach and spark conversation. "Visualize, verbalize and realize." We need to gets kids started thinking about CTE in middle school.
- Pilot for solution RVCWD jurisdiction-wide solution.
- Future Grant for Town/Airport implementation & RVCWD/RVIT Joint Planning for Valley Floor-wide
- Phase II of CalTrans grant - Bioengineering Fix for All Mill Creek and Tributary erosion and high flood risk sites.
- Explain that ERRP is doing watershed analysis that helps frame upland conditions that are causing problems in stream channels and what solutions are to excess sediment and perturbed hydrology (increased peak flows and decreased base flows).

14. Treasurer's report: none. Treasurer not present.

15. Next Meeting: March 06, 2024. Send agenda items to admin@mac.roundvalley.org.

16. Adjournment 7:40pm